



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: November 16, 2006
Release Number: CA 10711-01

Contact: Richard A. Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Residents Affected By Esperanza Fire

Sacramento, CA – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans will be made to California residents affected by the Esperanza Wildfire that started on October 26 at the base of a hillside in Cabazon and continued through November 1, 2006. “We look forward to working with California and the people affected by the fire to make SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes,” said Administrator Preston.

By declaring a disaster, Administrator Preston’s action makes the SBA assistance available. Preston’s action responded to a November 8, 2006 request from Henry R. Renteria, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s authorized representative. The declaration covers **Riverside** County and the neighboring counties of **Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino** and **San Diego** in California and **La Paz** County in Arizona. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area.

“Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the fire,” said J. Adalberto Quijada, SBA’s Santa Ana District Director. “SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” he continued.

The center will be located in the following community and will be open on the indicated days and times:

Banning, CA
Banning Community Center
789 N. San Gorgonia

Mondays through Fridays
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Open Friday, November 17 through Thursday, December 7
(closed Thanksgiving Day)

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

(more)

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **January 16, 2007**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **August 16, 2007**.

###

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov.

###

Field Operations Center - West — P.O. Box 419004 — Sacramento, CA 95841